

# Learn To Be Eagles, GSPA Director Tells FFA Members

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ing Arts (GSPA) group, wants to ruffle their feathers.

In the 33 years he has spoken to FFA members and directed hundreds of high school students, he gave them one objective. Deen showed them how to raise their arms and learn to fly like an eagle.

And the same message he has been giving FFA leaders for decades was repeated Wednesday afternoon as he greeted more than 100 FFA officers at the 1997 Eastern Region FFA Leadership Conference at Ephrata High School.

In many classrooms, Deen has told students to live each day as though it was their last. He repeated the same message on Wednesday: *carpe diem* — Latin for "seize the day." Deen believes "too many young people don't seize the day."

Deen, who told the members he will turn 60 years old in September, said, "I want more people to seize the day."

"You need to be a little different than everybody else," he told the officers, taking the first steps in leading their chapters.

"Learn to march to a different drummer."

Deen told the leaders to use their unique talents to bring change to their chapters and community. "We need to have more young people who are flying above all the turmoil that goes on in life," he said. FFA is unique, Deen told them, because more young people are involved in FFA than in any other student organization. "So

many of you in FFA seem to know where it's at."

Deen said in his experience, he's never seen FFA'ers who hold down lots of responsibilities on farms and in agribusiness walk around, saying, "I'm bored, I don't care."

Deen, who received the honorary FFA degree some time ago, is retiring this year after 35 years of teaching in the county. He told the FFA members they are the future.

"When I leave my career in education, what I'll remember will be all the young people who made FFA what it is."

Deen plans to continue on with a career that includes reaching young people. He presented his "keys" to successful living by leading off with a quote he came across several years ago: "I want to be thoroughly used up when I die," he said.

"How many people pass through life thoroughly used up?" he said.

When Deen decided to retire, he told his high school administrators, family, and friends that he was "moving on." Deen told them that retirement did not mean giving up. "I still have my dreams, aspirations, and visions," he said.

He told the FFA members to maintain a sense of humor. He remembered when he first started teaching, years ago, a student came up to him and said, "Mr. Deen, you need to be more childlike. Not childish, but childlike," he said.

Deen told the FFA'ers, "Don't

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Stan Deen, top center, spoke about learning to be an eagle to area FFA members. The same message he has been giving FFA leaders for decades was repeated Wednesday afternoon as he greeted more than 100 FFA officers at the 1997 Eastern Region FFA Leadership Conference.

Front row, from left, Amy Shelley, Manhelm FFA; Dave Smoker, Hans Herr FFA; Joy Young, Solanco FFA; and Kristy Watson, West Perry FFA. Second row, from left, Andrea Bashore, Northern Lebanon FFA; Vince Metzler, Manor FFA; Sandy Mast, Twin Valley FFA; Derrick Carpenter, Big Spring FFA; and Aaron Ranck, Pequea Valley FFA. Third row, from left, Sheldon Hoover, Grassland FFA; Rachel Chambers, Twin Valley FFA; and Andy Young, Solanco FFA.

Back row, from left, Todd Getz, Eastern Lebanon County; Charles Aurentz, Cedar Crest FFA; Stan Deen; Jen Hess, Solanco FFA; and Cory Simo, Grassland FFA.



Coordinating the reporters workshop, from left, Dan Kreider, Cedar Crest vice president and county reporter, and Charles Aurentz, Lebanon County and Cedar Crest FFA president.



Amanda Sauder, Grassland FFA recruitment secretary, works the Amazon to retrieve a pall using a pole.



At the leadership conference at Ephrata High School Wednesday evening more than 100 FFA leaders gathered for workshops. Kneeling, from left, Jim Kerr, county president; Joanne Zimmerman, Cloister FFA president; Richie Bollinger, county reporter; and Kendra Weaver, county vice president. Back row, from left, Travis Donough, county sentinel; John Ewing, state sentinel; Andy Young, state president; Kristy Watson, state south central region vice president; Joy Young, eastern region vice president; Denise Hoover, county treasurer; and Kevin Stauffer, county chaplain.



A low ropes course organized and operated by Ben Ehrhart, Narvon, provided team challenges for the FFA members. Here, Northern Lebanon County members, from left, Andrea Bashore, Shayla Forney, and Deanna Shindel work the zig-zag.